

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4629

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, KE, TZ

SUBJ: KENYAN-TANZANIAN RELATIONS

REF: 77 NAIROBI 5867

1. THERE HAS BEEN SPATE OF PRESS REPORTS OVER LAST FEW DAYS STATING THAT TANZANIAN OFFICIALS WERE EXPECTED IN KISUMU EARLY PART OF WEEK OF JANUARY 29 TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR RETURN OF THREE LAKE VESSELS SEIZED DURING LAST YEAR'S BORDER CLOSING DISPUTE. RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS WILL BE REPORTEDLY LED BY HEADS OF TANZANIAN AND KENYAN RAILWAYS. DAILY NATION OF JANUARY 28 QUOTES PRINSEC TANGOV MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT AS SAYING HIS DELEGATION GOING TO KISUMU TO IMPLEMENT SECOND POINT OF MOMBASA AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA LAST MONTH WHICH CALLED FOR RESUMPTION OF MARINE SERVICES ON LAKE VICTORIA. SAME ISSUE OF NATION HAD STORY DEADLINED DAR SAYING GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THERE HAD INVITED KENYAN BUSINESSMEN AND COMPANIES WHOSE PROPERTY WAS IMPOUNDED IN TANZANIA WHEN THE BORDER WAS CLOSED LAST YEAR TO CONSULT TANZANIA'S POLICE CHIEF. INVITATION WAS SEEN AS FIRST STEP TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING FIRST POINT OF MOMBASA AGREEMENT.

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2. F.X. NJENGA, HEAD OF LEGAL DIVISION IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAD TOLD POLOFF JANUARY 27 THAT PRESS REPORTS WERE MISLEADING. HE SAID THREE STEAMERS WOULD NOT JUST BE RELEASED, AS KENYANS VIEWED THEM AS PART OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT WHICH STILL HAD TO BE NEGOTIATED. HE ADDED THAT KENYA WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WITH TANZANIA.

ACCORDING TO NJENGA, BILATERAL TALKS ARE SCHEDULED IN NAIROBI
IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT GOK WOULD RELEASE THREE
STEAMERS, WHICH CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT CHIP IN ITS HANDS, WITHOUT
GETTING SATISFACTION ON KENYAN ASSETS SEIZED IN TANZANIA WHICH
MAY BE FORTHCOMING. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT DESPITE EARLIER
MEEINGS IN KISUMU AND MOMBASA AND OPTIMISTIC PUBLICITY ABOUT
THEM, THERE REMAIN MANY NUTS AND BOLTS ISSUES WHICH WILL BE
SUBJECT TO HARD BARGAINING.
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